

beautiful species of *Chiton*. This is a discovery of some importance to the fauna of the Permian epoch. The fact of the existence of this genus at so early a period, or rather an earlier one, was first made known by Duchastel and Puzos, who found it in the carboniferous beds of Tournay; lately De Koninck has figured two or three species from the same locality. Only two species (*C. Grignonensis* and *C. fascicularis*) have been published as tertiary, and none I believe have yet been discovered in the intermediate formations. This ought to induce collectors to look out for the remains of this genus in the secondary rocks, for in such I have no hesitation in saying that they will hereafter be found. I strongly suspect that Professor Phillips has been describing from the postal plate of some Chitons when he constructed the genus *Metoptoma*: the corresponding plate of the magnesian limestone species has precisely the form of the so-called *Metoptoma imbricata*, *M. pileus* and *M. sulcata*. It is probable however that *Metoptoma oblonga* (judging from what appears to be a muscular impression in the figure, if it represent a cast) belongs to a different genus—say *Capulus*.

Museum, Newcastle, Oct. 20, 1844.

WM. KING.

ON THE HABITS OF THE GODWIT.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

On the reading of a paper in the Section of Natural History of the British Association relating to the habits of some of our native birds, the Very Reverend the President of the Section is reported in the *Athenæum* (No. 883.) to have made the following observation:—

“The godwit had been mentioned: it had a long bill, and it was generally supposed that birds with long bills lived by suction, but this was not the case with the godwit, as it fed voraciously and flourished upon barley. It could not drink in deep water, but was always obliged to have recourse to the edge of a stream to drink.”

With respect to the godwit, it may be perfectly true that it feeds on barley, although the fact has never come under my own observation, notwithstanding a very long residence on the coast, where I have had opportunities of seeing hundreds of the birds in question feeding on the slob, the muddy margins of estuaries and on sandy shores, as well as far inland. But though I dispute not the statement as to the godwit's grain-eating propensities, I most positively assert that it also frequently “bores” in moist earth in search of food, in a similar manner to the snipe, having frequently seen it do so along the margins of freshwater streams, which at low water run over sandy or muddy flats, and where the sand or mud is not very compact. Another favourite haunt of the godwit is by the sides of the channels left at low tide in salt-water lagoons. The bill is then inserted in the soft mud or sand to its base, apparently for the purpose of securing such objects of food as harbour beneath the surface.

As to snipes and other long-billed birds living on suction nothing can be more opposed to fact, for the snipes feed on the larvæ of in-

sects, which are found in such profusion in moist places as to cause the birds to resort there at feeding time,—the larvæ of the ephemera and dragon-fly being especial favourite objects of their research. I have on several occasions shot snipes with the larvæ of the *Libellula* still remaining in the gullet, so that I have no doubt whatever of the fact of the birds eating them.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

1 Paul Street, Kingsdown, Bristol,
October 21, 1844.

THOMAS AUSTIN.

BATARREA PHALLOIDES.

Mr. Frost gathered two specimens of this rare fungus in the beginning of October, in an old pollard ash-tree in Lady Grenville's park at Dropmore. One he sent to Sir W. J. Hooker, the other to the Botanic Society in the Regent's Park, where it is preserved, and an attempt made to propagate it by its sporules.

J. D. C. SOWERBY.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR SEPT. 1844.

Chiswick.—September 1. Slight fog: exceedingly clear, hot and dry. 2. Foggy: clear, hot and dry. 3. Fine: overcast. 4. Densely overcast and fine. 5. Cloudy and fine. 6. Rain: cloudy. 7. Slight rain: cloudy: clear and fine. 8. Very fine. 9. Densely overcast. 10. Overcast and fine. 11. Slight fog: very fine. 12. Overcast and fine. 13, 14. Very fine. 15. Cloudy: rain. 16. Very fine. 17. Showery: heavy rain at night. 18. Rain. 19. Clear and very fine. 20. Drizzly: hazy. 21. Very fine. 22, 23. Cloudy: very fine. 24. Very fine. 25. Slight fog: very fine. 26, 27. Mornings foggy: clear and fine. 28. Dense fog: heavy dew: clear and exceedingly fine. 29. Drizzly: cloudy and fine: clear: slight frost. 30. Slightly overcast: clear and fine.—Mean temperature of the month 1°·8 above the average.

Boston.—Sept. 1, 2. Fine. 3. Cloudy. 4. Windy. 5. Windy: lightning at night. 6. Cloudy: rain, with thunder and lightning from noon to 5 P.M. 7. Cloudy. 8. Fine. 9. Rain. 10, 11. Fine. 12—14. Cloudy. 15. Stormy: rain early A.M. 16. Fine. 17. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. 18. Cloudy. 19. Fine: rain early A.M. 20. Fine: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 21, 22. Cloudy. 23. Windy: rain A.M. and P.M. 24. Fine: rain P.M. 25—28. Fine. 29. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 30. Cloudy.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—Sept. 1. Clear. 2. Clear: hot. 3. Clear: drizzle. 4. Fog: fine: fog. 5. Bright: clear. 6. Cloudy: fine: fog. 7. Damp: cloudy. 8. Cloudy. 9. Cloudy: showers. 10. Bright: clear. 11, 12. Bright: showers. 13. Bright: clear. 14. Frost: clear. 15. Damp: drizzle. 16. Damp: drizzle: showers. 17. Drops: drizzle: showers. 18. Frost: clear: cold. 19. Clear: aurora. 20. Frost: clear: aurora. 21. Frost: clear. 22, 23. Clear. 24. Clear: cloudy. 25. Drizzle: cloudy. 26. Showers: drizzle. 27. Damp: drizzle. 28. Cloudy: clear. 29. Showers: clear. 30. Rain.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Sept. 1—4. Fair and fine. 5. Fair and fine, but cloudy. 6. Showery: lightning. 7. Shower: thunder. 8. Shower. 9. Fair and fine. 10. Fair and fine, but cloudy. 11. Fair and fine: one slight shower P.M. 12. Rain P.M. 13. Rain all day. 14. Rain very heavy. 15. Fair. 16. Shower. 17. Showery. 18—22. Fair: fine harvest day. 23. Fair, but cloudy. 24. Fair: clear. 25. Fair: cloudy. 26. Fair. 27. Fair: cloudy. 28. Rain all day. 29, 30. Fair and clear.

Mean temperature of the month	54°·07
Mean temperature of Sept. 1843	56 ·30
Mean temperature of Sept. for twenty years	52 ·5
Mean temperature of spring water	50 ·3
Mean temperature of ditto Sept. 1843 ...	62 ·0